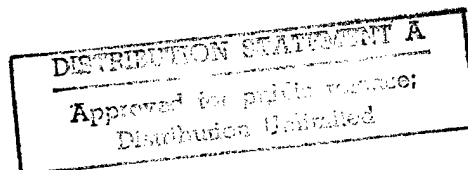


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# USSR Report

MILITARY AFFAIRS

No. 1807

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## MILITARY-POLITICAL ISSUES

### INTEREST IN MILITARY CAREERS CORRESPONDS TO NUMBER OF VETERANS IN REPUBLICS

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 11 Aug 83 p 2

[Article by A. Shalov, chief of department, Kazakhstan Communist Party Central Committee: "The Word of the Veteran"]

[Text] In studying the statistics on graduates of secondary schools, vocational and technical schools, and technical schools who enter military educational institutions, we noted: In some rayons of the republic many more youths select the profession of officer than in others. What is the reason? It turned out that the more the frontline veterans and reserve and retired officers in the rayon, the more the representatives of this rayon among the nominees to become officer candidates. Is this not a convincing indicator of the contribution of veterans to military-patriotic indoctrination and of the strength and authority of their word? (By the way, more than 250,000 veterans of the Great Patriotic War reside in the Kazakh SSR.)

The June (1983) plenum of the CPSU Central Committee required us to improve indoctrinational work with the youth, especially stressing that an inestimable role in this matter was always played by veterans of the revolution, wars, and labor. We are persistently implementing this requirement.

Meetings with Hero of the Soviet Union and Colonel (reserve) I. Konyakhin bring me satisfaction. Here is what recently gave me grounds for reflection. Graduation took place in the "Club of Future Officers" which has been led for many years by the reserve officer. As always, several dozen youths expressed the desire to go to military schools. "Several regiments can be staffed by officers who are graduates of the club," states Ivan Ivanovich Konyakhin. By the way, his two sons are serving in the tank troops in the rank of major. At one time they were also occupied in the club.

After the Great Patriotic War Konyakhin devoted much attention to the selection of candidates for the military schools. Initially, as oblast military commissar. Now, already in the reserve, he took the trouble to form the club where youths could become familiar with the special features of the services of the Armed Forces and combat arms and the system of the Soviet military school and could meet with veterans of the Army and Navy, young officers, and officer candidates. And here for more than 10 years already he has been directing this club, relying on assistants from the Komsomol raykom, military commissariat, troop unit, DOSAAF raykom, and section of the "Znaniya" [Knowledge] society.

The military-patriotic activity of the veterans is an integral part of the system of military-patriotic indoctrination of the youth which has formed in the republic. We consider their recommendations and rely on their assistance in the solution of all problems.

It is known that the early disclosure of the abilities and talents of the personality, to which the June plenum of the CPSU Central Committee called attention, predetermines the social activity and life's fate of a person to a considerable degree. A question arises in this connection: when is the dream of the heroic profession of an officer born in a youth? A study which was conducted with the participation of the best teachers and veterans of the Armed Forces showed: as a rule, a person makes his professional selection not before completion of a general-educational school, but earlier--most often in the seventh or eighth grades. Consequently, the earlier the teenager meets with the veteran of the revolution, frontline fighter, or officer candidate the more steadily will his internal compass point to the military school, to the profession of officer which is difficult but very necessary for the country and the people. Therefore, we also try to embrace schoolboys of the junior grades with military-patriotic measures.

Teenagers stand watch in the honor guard at the Eternal Flame in the capital of Kazakhstan and at monuments and memorials in hundreds of the republic's populated places. Museums and rooms of combat glory have been set up in almost all schools. In them, as a rule, there are displays devoted to graduates of the school who are performing the duty of soldier and seaman, officer candidate, and officer in a worthy manner, and letters of thanks from commanders and articles about those who distinguished themselves in military formation are preserved. Meetings with participants in the war and of military-patriotic clubs and conferences on books with military subject matter are conducted in the museums.

This, for example, is how the work was set up in Secondary School 22 in the city of Ural'sk. The school was awarded the diploma of the Komsomol Central Committee and the DOSAAF Central Committee and a certificate from the commander of the Central Asian Military District for effective work in training youths for service in the army and their entry into military schools.

The participation of the veterans in the indoctrination of the youth brings special results when they become patrons of a small collective of teenagers, meet with them regularly, and study their wards. Hero of the Soviet Union, Colonel (reserve) F. Zhila, for example, directs the "Yunarmeyets" [Young Armyman] military-sports camp in which, during summer vacations, the pupils of one of the Alma-Ata schools study the principles of military affairs, learn to shoot, and are engaged in drill training. An outstanding example of indoctrinational work with children is provided by Hero of the Soviet Union Lieutenant General M. Merkulov. For many years, he has been the commander of the republic "Orlenok" military-sports game. It is not surprising that many of the "eaglets," growing up, enter the border school which he heads.

Public military-patriotic schools and clubs have become genuine centers for the training of youths for military service. They propagandize the combat specialties of pilots, seamen, signalmen, and border guards. There are now about 1,000

schools and clubs of this type in the republic. The lessons in them are conducted by reserve and retired officers, specialists of local enterprises, instructors of DOSAAF committees, personnel of Komsomol raykoms, and officers of local garrisons. A so-called "little air academy" has existed in one of the cities for 12 years already in which pupils of schools and technical schools and young workers who dream of the aviation profession are engaged. There are flight-navigation, engineer, radio engineering, and general departments. The youths study the history of Soviet aviation and the construction of the airplane and they accomplish parachute jumps.

It is difficult to overestimate the lecture presentations by veterans in the professional orientation and expansion of the youth's military horizon. The youths listen to lectures by Heroes of the Soviet Union K. Suraganov, D. Moroz, P. Blinov, T. Azhimov, and V. Krechetov, twice Hero of the Soviet Union T. Begel'dinov, and full knight of the Order of Glory, V. Dzyuba, holding their breath.

We cannot fail to mention an important feature of military-patriotic work in the republic. It is known that prior to the Great October Socialist Revolution the Kazakhs, just as representatives of other nationalities of the East, were not entrusted with weapons. Kazakhs were not called up for military service. Only Soviet power gave equal rights to all nations and nationalities of the country. In the struggle for this power, for the cause of the party of Lenin, and for the freedom and independence of the fatherland dozens of former cattle breeders and farmers displayed courage and the ability to skillfully master weapons and military specialties. During the years of the Great Patriotic War and the post-war period officer dynasties were formed from native steppe-dwellers. We are striving to see that before the eyes of the youth are the attractive models of the officer-batyr such as Sagadat Nurmagambetov, Bagadurbek Baytasov, and other representatives of the Kazakh people who were glorified by soldierly exploits.

We are devoting serious attention to the creation of committees of assistance with the military commissariats. The military commissariats have a small authorized strength. At times, their personnel are unable to give the youths exhaustive information on one or another military school or to study the moral-political qualities of a possible nominee to become an officer candidate. The committees of assistance should help them here.

For example, the members of the committee of assistance which is led by Colonel (retired) G. Alefirenko is working very actively. Their activity is not limited to consultations. They conduct talks in schools, share experiences with the military instructors, and participate in the conduct of meetings of the pre-draftee youth. As a result, the military commissariat successfully accomplishes considerations for the selection of candidates for the military schools, and the majority of the youths selected become officer candidates.

In evaluating the effectiveness of military-patriotic work, we cannot keep silent concerning shortcomings. A considerable portion of our republic's population resides in small settlements and villages. Here, the word of a veteran-propagandist is heard more rarely than in the cities. The draftees from rural terrain are somewhat more poorly prepared for service than their city-contemporaries.

In particular, some of them do not master the Russian language with sufficient freedom. At times, there are not sufficient qualified military instructors in the rural areas and the material base for primary military training is not sufficiently developed. The military commissariats from remote areas do not always conduct work on the selection of candidates for military schools in a quality manner.

We are trying to eliminate these shortcomings. We attach great significance to the placement of the leaders of primary military instruction. Now about one third of the military instructors in the republic's schools are reserve officers. We are awaiting the first detachment of teachers of primary military training from the Karaganda Institute of Physical Training. The majority of the instructors come from the remote areas.

Commanders and political officers of troop units, officer candidates, and officers from the Alma Ata Higher Combined Arms Command School imeni Marshal of the Soviet Union I. S. Konev travel out to the small villages to propagandize the traditions of our Armed Forces.

The training of the youth for service and professional orientation are furthered by the active activity of committees of the defense society. The DOSAAF Central Committee of the Kazakh SSR generalized and spread the work experience of the Merkenskiy DOSAAF organization which is in Dzhambul oblast. Senior Lieutenant (reserve) T. Moldakhanov has been directing it for 15 years. A good base has been created here for the mastery of the principles of military affairs and courses, study groups, and sports sections and teams have been organized in 30 schools and rural vocational and technical schools. The "university of the future serviceman" enjoys popularity. The achievements of the DOSAAFites would be impossible without the active participation of frontline veterans and reserve and retired officers in the work of the organization.

The word of the veteran.... It contains tremendous indoctrinational strength. The more effectively we use this strength, the better the replacements which the Soviet Armed Forces will receive.

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CSO: 1801/455



## MILITARY-POLITICAL ISSUES

### MILITARY PRESS USED TO STRENGTHEN DISCIPLINE

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 11 Aug 83 p 2

[Article: "Strengthen Discipline and Organization"]

[Text] Important work is being conducted in the Armed Forces on strengthening discipline and organization and maintaining firm prescribed order in the units and on the ships. The military press is making its contribution to the throwing of light on this work. In implementing the decisions of the November (1982) and June (1983) plenums of the CPSU Central Committee as well as the decree of the CPSU Central Committee, the USSR Council of Ministers, and the All-Union Central Trade-Union Council, "On intensifying work to strengthen socialist labor discipline," the collectives of district, group, and fleet newspapers are striving to disclose profoundly and comprehensively the activity of commanders, staffs, political organs, and party and Komsomol organizations which is directed toward raising the responsibility of each serviceman for irreproachable accomplishment of the requirements of the oath and regulations and the observance of strict discipline and high organization in everything. Military journalists see that each of their articles on these subjects finds the lively response of the readers and becomes a stimulating impetus for improvement of the matter, the attainment of new positions, and the maintenance of an atmosphere of efficiency and creativity and a healthy microclimate in the units and on the ships.

The newspaper of the Red Banner Carpathian Military District, SLAVA RODINY, systematically propagandizes the requirements of the CPSU Central Committee, the Soviet Minister of Defense, and the Main Political Directorate of the Soviet Army and Navy on the necessity to maintain firm discipline in the troops and throws light on the practice of the activity of commanders, staffs, political organs, and party and Komsomol organizations on this important direction. The newspaper devotes special attention to the disclosure of the key questions of discipline and military law and order, and namely: to an examination of the constitutional bases of military discipline, the formation of the social activity of army collectives, and the maintenance of prescribed mutual relations in them. The following thought which was stressed at the June (1983) plenum of the CPSU Central Committee runs through the published materials: "The strengthening of discipline is not a brief campaign, but daily painstaking work. And success is ensured when...all workers become its direct participants and when it is based on the experience, consciousness, and civic activity of the masses."

In one of the editions of SLAVA RODINY the readers' attention was attracted by a selection of materials under the heading "Success is where Discipline is Strong." The organization of competition, its influence on behavior and the strengthening of friendship and comradeship, and the direct effect of discipline on the maintenance of high vigilance and combat readiness is narrated in the correspondence, "Both Analysis and Training," published in this selection.

"The task consists of intensifying individual work with the soldiers and seeing that each of them serves in accordance with the regulations and displays high discipline in the course of lessons and tactical-special exercises and when performing service on a detail"--this is the conclusion which the author of another report draws.

The material, "Deceleration...on Boost," proved to be sharp and instructive. It discusses the blunting of a sense of responsibility, among some aviators, for the exemplary performance of their duties as set forth by the regulations and contains advice and recommendations on improving the moral atmosphere in the collective.

The newspaper SLAVA RODINY regularly contains articles which propagandize the Lenin behests to the Soviet servicemen and disclose the most important provisions of the oath and regulations. These materials are prefaced by the headings "Political Talks" and "Discipline--a Political and Moral Category." Problems connected with molding political and moral qualities in army youth, a sense of collectivism and comradeship, and irreconcilability toward a lack of spirituality, egoism, and relapses of consumer psychology find broad reflection in the materials of the Komsomol-youth page "Pennant." Journalists of the editorial board try to avoid hackneyed phrases in the presentation of articles, correspondence, and reporting and they find interesting subjects and original headings. The attention of the young reader is attracted by the reports, "Does everything become a fine lad?.." and "When the honey is bitter...." All the more that the instructive content of the materials corresponds to the gaudy headings.

Several articles of the newspaper of the Red Banner Pacific Fleet, BOYEVAYA VAKHTA, can also be called creative successes. For example, the report "Combat Coordination" is read with interest. It shows the dynamics of indoctrinational work and painstaking, difficult, daily work of the commander, communists, and Komsomols on uniting the personnel of the subunit. The main thought of the material is that firm prescribed order and the high discipline of the men as well as sharpened combat skill are inseparable.

The newspaper conducts talks with readers under the heading "On Time, On Service, On You." They are distinguished by the confidentiality of the talk about problems connected with the accomplishment of the requirements of the regulations, the moral development of the personality, and mutual relationships within the collective. These and other questions of the seamen's behavior and their attitude toward service also find reflection in materials under the headings: "The Regulation Requires It--Accomplish It!" and "Military Indoctrination: Experience and Considerations."

An analysis of materials on questions of strengthening discipline shows that the journalists of the newspapers named above try to consider the increased demands of the readers and think of how better and more intelligibly to bring to them

the combat word of party commentaries. At the same time, it should be said that the newspapers still do not make complete use of the possibilities which they have. Many materials of BOYEVAYA VAKHTA which are devoted to questions of strengthening discipline are superficial and descriptive. Frequently, frankly weak materials which only slightly designate the subject are placed under loud headings. Let us refer to one of them--"Don't Sound Like a Blank Shot." The report was published under a good heading: "Practice of Ideological Work: Microclimate and Discipline." But here is the trouble: its content does not correspond to the heading and really, it was written lightly and without knowledge of the matter. It did not show the forms and methods of ideological work which is directed toward struggling for strengthening military discipline in the training detachment which the correspondent visited. A specific account is replaced by general discourses.

Such newspaper articles, using the language of the report's author, sound like a blank shot; they avoid the requirements which are directed toward the deep and comprehensive treatment of such an important subject as the struggle to strengthen discipline and organization.

At the June plenum of the CPSU Central Committee it was noted that, in their letters, readers express dissatisfaction with the content, language, and style of some publications. Stereotyped reports and commentaries and editorials in which neither profound generalizations nor fresh thoughts are found were subjected to criticism.

These shortcomings are also inherent in some military publications. They are even found in those newspapers which, on the whole, treat questions of discipline in an interesting manner. In SLAVA RODINY and BOYEVAYA VAKHTA, for example, one can encounter editorials and other materials in which sketchiness and an unclear elaboration of a subject are inherent. A freshness of view on one or another problem, convincingness, and the principled nature of the authors' position are absent in them at times. Some materials are written in a dry, bureaucratic language--those such as "Trusting, Check..." (SLAVA RODINY) and "The Agitator--a Fighter for Discipline" (BOYEVAYA VAKHTA).

Recently, the newspapers which have been named and a number of others have weakened attention to legal propaganda and rarely draw on military lawyers as authors. Meanwhile, district, group, and fleet newspapers should regularly contain theoretical articles and consultations on legal questions as well as materials on the work experience of commanders, political organs, and party organizations on the legal indoctrination of the men and the maintenance of legality and law and order in the units and on the ships. It is necessary that such newspaper articles be distinguished by quality argumentation, competence, and clarity.

Editorial collectives should intensify attention to the broad demonstration of the role of young officers, warrant officers [praporshchik and michman], sergeants, and petty officers in strengthening prescribed order. They should tell more about the work experience in preventing misdemeanors and about commanders' use of disciplinary rights. They should come forth more boldly against manifestations of coarseness, a disrespectful attitude toward fellow servicemen,

instances of eyewash, and the attempt of some commanders to embellish the true state of affairs in the unit or on the ship.

Subjects connected with the strengthening of influence of the communists and Komsomols on the military collective require a more profound elaboration. One should renounce primitive, stereotyped schemes such as, let us say--"We talked with the violator of discipline and he began to turn over a new leaf." The readers expect from newspapers research articles in which the process of party-political work which is directed toward the indoctrination of the men in a spirit of conscious discipline, performance, and high responsibility for the performance of military duty would be reflected in its entire diversity.

It is necessary to propagandize more profoundly on the pages of the newspapers the requirements of the military oath and regulations and the principles of the moral code of the builder of communism, to speak out more often on questions of moral indoctrination and the military ethic, and, by the force of the printed word, to develop in the men of the Armed Forces loyalty to the sacred duty of defender of the motherland and to the combat and revolutionary traditions and a sense of love and respect for commanders and military comradeship.

Firm discipline and organization are important everywhere in the Armed Forces: on combat duty, on sea cruises, on exercises and firings, in the course of flights, and during the performance of guard and interior duties. It is the task of the military press to show with knowledge of the matter how to achieve this in the units and on the ships. It is no less important to raise questions connected with the strict observance of the daily routine, the accomplishment of orders and instructions, and the behavior of servicemen on leave in the city.

The indoctrination of the men of the Armed Forces in a spirit of a high state of discipline and organization is one of the main tasks of the military press. And the more aggressively, actively, and purposefully the district, group, and fleet newspapers will conduct this work, the higher will be the influence of the published materials on the maintenance of firm prescribed order in the Armed Forces.

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## ARMED FORCES

### ATTENTION GIVEN TO MAINTENANCE OF MILITARY COMPOUNDS

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 7 Aug 83 p 2

[Article by Chief of the Housing Operation Administration of the Red Banner Far East Military District Engineer-Colonel D. Ovetskiy: "Our House--Our Concern"]

[Text] Wherever you cast a glance there are hills everywhere covered with shrubs. Winding among them, a road recedes into the horizon. First our vehicle flies up and then swoops down. A garrison--one of those which it is customary to call remote--has been lost somewhere here amidst these twin hills.

An asphalt road brought us from the traffic control point to the unit headquarters--a high quality, two-storied building. Next to it are brick barracks with large windows. Still farther are a soldier's mess hall, a club and other buildings. Poplars **in even rows stretch into the distance.** There are children's playgrounds, athletic fields, flower beds and flower gardens in the yards of the houses. There are asphalt walks, a neatly trimmed shrub, and in the shadow of the trees is a bench for relaxing.

Something else is striking. The dwelling houses and all the buildings are repaired. We saw not a single entry door hanging by one hinge nor any holes in the public road. The hand of a conscientious, considerate and zealous boss was felt in everything. And it was pleasant to recognize that our workers from the rayon billeting operation unit, which is headed by Engineer-Major K. Modin, also created this beauty of the military compound. Specialists from the KECh [billeting operation unit] show constant concern for order in the garrison and perform all operations stipulating technology for maintaining the living quarters.

It should be mentioned that garrisons such as this one are not a rarity in the military district. Today every second compound of ours meets all the requirements of military regulations and the organization of public services and amenities. Multistoried houses with all conveniences have been built in the majority of garrisons for the families of officers and warrant officers. In place of the old barracks, new ones of frame and panel or brick construction have appeared with central heating, sewerage and hot and cold water. And with each year our economy increases and confronts service workers with new tasks associated with maintaining buildings and structures in good condition.

Definite experience is amassed in the military district for operating them and ensuring longevity. Last year, although not without effort, we fulfilled the plans for major and routine repair of **residences**, barracks and communal structures, and for the organization of public services and amenities of military compounds. This was achieved mainly by increasing the responsibility of specialists for assigned work and proper planning and selection of a front for working. Collectives which are headed by Lieutenant Colonel B. Pozharskiy and Engineer-Majors A. Bukayev and G. Lubinets worked for some time on a shock basis.

The necessity for further improvement of the organization of public services and amenities for barracks and **residences** was emphasized at the all-military conference for improving life in the military forces, and it was mentioned that all questions should be resolved comprehensively and at a modern technical level. Fulfilling these requirements, the KEU [billeting operation administration] of the military district, commanders, and party and Komsomol organizations regard the concern about living quarters as one of the important tasks. Many innovations which facilitate an increase in the quality of work being performed have been incorporated in recent years. Here is one of them. Taking into consideration the features of life in the Far East and the sparsity of garrisons, we divided the entire territory of the military district into several conditional regions which are assigned to the more trained specialists from the billeting operation administration of the military district. They are assigned to those such as Engineer-Colonels Yu. Andreyev and V. Kireyev, Engineer-Lieutenant Colonel Ye. Frolov, and A. Sherbanosov, a civilian employee of the Soviet Army.

Dividing the territory of the military district into conditional regions is not a simple formality. They were established for the purpose of more efficient management of the entire complex of operations and better and timely supply of remote garrisons with repair materials. Repair-restoration teams were established in each region from the most trained specialists. During the cold season they perform the functions of emergency duty brigades which go to the sites of emergencies and accidents on urgent call, and they eliminate troubles in the engineering and power networks. During the summertime these teams participate in repairing communal buildings and structures.

In order to be well aware of the status of matters at the sites and to effectively resolve problems that arise, production planning sessions are conducted periodically in each region at which heads of billeting operation units report on the status of matters in major and routine repair of living quarters and their operation. Thus one of those planning sessions was devoted to training billeting operation sections for the coming winter. It revealed a lot of weak points in operating separate billeting operation units in the regions. And at the planning session conducted by Engineer-Colonel B. Berezovskiy, chief engineer of the military district's billeting operation administration, it turned out that through the fault of Engineer-Lieutenant Colonel A. Bey in one of the remote garrisons the **schedules** for rebuilding the boiler room **are not being met**. Last winter complaints were received from here at the billeting operation administration about poor heating in the dwelling houses. We considered this when we drew up the plan to prepare the military compound for the winter, planned to repair the heating line and rebuild the boiler room,

and allotted additional monetary and material resources. It appeared that everything had been done to change matters for the better. But everything did not turn out as we planned. We had to intervene quickly.

We also acquired practice in registering and concluding labor contracts with civilian specialized organizations for the repair of complex communal equipment. Highly skilled specialists work in those organizations, and, as a rule, they make high quality repairs which allows us then to cope successfully with the tasks that were set.

This fact is also noteworthy for many of the garrisons in the military district: recently commanders of various degrees and specialists of the billeting operation service have started to work in closer contact. They jointly draw up plans for major and routine repair of living quarters, preparing them for winter, rebuilding communal structures and engineering networks, and performing everything that was planned through their joint efforts. For example, this kind of close contact was established between officials of the motorized rifle unit, where Lieutenant Colonel A. Gumenyuk is assigned as deputy commander for rear services, and workers of the billeting operation unit in the region which is directed by Engineer-Lieutenant Colonel V. Nosov. And this yields its own results. The garrison's buildings and communal structures are in good condition, and, according to the organization of public services and amenities, the military compound has a leading place in the district.

We are striving so that all billeting operation sections of the military district might work smoothly without breakdowns and emergencies. And this depends to a large extent on how our plans are drawn up, whether everything in them is taken into account, and whether strengths and resources are properly distributed. But, of course, good as the plan may be, this is still no way to do things.

Practice shows that the work of our service cannot be effective if accounting and control are not imposed on the quality of performing everything planned and if data is lacking for an objective analysis of the status of things at the sites. True and complete information concerning the operation and maintenance of dwelling houses and barracks is necessary for the timely correction of plans and rendering of assistance where it is needed in the process. A lot of letters are still arriving at the district's billeting operation administration which contain valid complaints about living conditions. When you get to know them, you reach the conclusion that many of them wouldn't exist if, at the billeting operation units in the region, living quarters-operation offices and housing offices were well aware of the status of things at the sites, would listen to the opinion of the tenants, and would effectively take appropriate measures. As a rule, these letters concern the careless consideration of some workers for the needs and inquiries of military servicemen and their families.

Just such a vicious style of operation was characteristic of Engineer-Major P. Dvoynin. They were not concerned about repairing dwelling houses and barracks at the billeting operation unit which he headed. Appropriations earmarked for this purpose were scattered and diverted to sideline operations. And as a result, the billeting operation unit did not systematically fulfill

the planned tasks for repairing living quarters and the organization of public services and amenities at the military compound. Furthermore, Engineer-Major Dvoynin neglected fulfilling his direct service duties and sharply reduced demands on himself and subordinates. All of this also led to the fact that the officer was removed from the job he was holding.

Unfortunately, similar examples of careless regard for assigned matters are not isolated. Just recently I came across a plan for winter preparation of the billeting operation unit headed by Engineer-Major I. Chekalin. The plan is thoroughly formulated and it takes into consideration all trends in operating the billeting operation unit. But, as the saying goes, it went smoothly on paper. For a while here, they didn't even think about starting to work.

At a meeting of the military soviet where the winter preparation plan was discussed, there was a detailed conversation concerning this and other negative cases in the activities of the district's billeting operation service. Primary attention was concentrated on the reasons that caused the deficiencies. We aren't aware of support on the part of commanders in individual military collectives, and women's councils and housing committees are not sufficiently and actively enlisted in the organization of public services and amenities at military compounds. There are a lot of reserves in the matter of creating funds for spare parts, using the resources of light mechanization, and reducing expenditures for manual labor. The military soviet aimed at a more specific and effective solution of problems such as reconstruction of existing communal structures and engineering networks and the technical training of cadres.

I have only talked about several aspects in the operation of our district's billeting operation service. But it appears they also give an idea of how responsible, complex and busy this operation is. Yes, we have definite experience, and now it's necessary to see to it that it becomes universal property and is incorporated everywhere. Implementing the requirements of the June 1983 Plenum of the CPSU Central Committee to ensure the fulfillment of plans for constructing dwelling houses and social-everyday objectives, the workers of the billeting operation service will selflessly work even farther and with their full strength. They understand very well that concern for living quarters is a party matter and is connected in the most direct manner with the living conditions of military servicemen, and this means also with the combat readiness of units and sections.

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## ARMED FORCES

### PROFILE OF MILITARY COMMISSAR

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 13 Aug 83 p 1

[Article by KRASNAYA ZVEZDA correspondent of the Red Banner Kiev Military District Major A. Oliynik: "The Authority of a Military Commissar"]

[Text] Lieutenant Colonel Viktor Yakovlevich Kazak arrived at the Kanev united city military commissariat in 1979. This was a difficult time for the collective. Among the military commissariats of Cherkassy Oblast, Kanev was in one of the last places according to a number of indices, including the training of youth for military service.

Lieutenant Colonel Kazak, who prior to this was chief of the leading Chernobayevskiy rayon military commissariat, set about doing the job zealously and with his characteristic energy. But everything didn't turn out. At times it came to conflicts. From the beginning, strained relations arose between the new military commissar and the managers of several enterprises and directors of educational institutions whom he criticized at the bureau of the party gorkom for neglect in the military-patriotic education of young workers, students at engineering trades schools and pupils, and for poor attention to basic military training.

Gradually everyone was convinced that the military commissar was firmly and properly following the party line and he deserve support. Things changed radically in the military commissariat. The authority of the military commissariat grew. It became one of the leading commissariats and this year it took first place in the oblast in training youth for military service. Lieutenant Colonel Kazak was encouraged by commanding officers of forces in the Red Banner Kiev Military District.

Of course, that support which was given to Lieutenant Colonel Kazak on the part of local party and soviet organs played an important role in improving military-patriotic work. The rayon committee of DOSAAF and the civil defense headquarters as well contributed in a large way to its organization. At the present time, all schools and engineering trades schools of the city and rayon have available a good material base: equipped athletic fields, technical classrooms, military offices and firing ranges. The necessary visual propaganda has been set up in them. A club for the future soldier is actively operating as part of the military commissariat, where members of the assistance committee who took part in the Great Patriotic War--P. Gorskiy, V. Belyuzkin, V. Gdovskiy and others--conduct lessons on courage. Trips are organized to famous battle places, of which there are many on Ukrainian soil.

"Lieutenant Colonel Kazak is a person with a restive nature and his high party qualities and abilities as an organizer provided him with high authority," says Colonel N. Levitskiy, the Cherkassy Oblast military commissar. Precisely thanks to this, he brought the military commissariat up to a number of leading ones within a comparatively short period.

Kazak's officer's biography began almost 30 years ago. He is the son of a front-line soldier. Following graduation from the former Belgorod military antitank school he served in the Baltic Military District and in the Group of Soviet Forces in Germany. He commanded a platoon, a battery, then was chosen secretary of the unit's Komsomol committee, and was appointed assistant chief of the political department for Komsomol work. Then they offered him service in a military commissariat. He concurred. That was in 1970. He has been in various jobs. For the last 10 years he has been a military commissar.

"Many people think that it's much easier in a military commissariat than in the military forces," Viktor Yakovlevich says with a smile. "They are mistaken. The work here requires great effort, everyday experience, and knowledge. The collective is small, but there's a lot of business."

In reality, a majority of the most diverse questions are resolved in the military commissariat as the organ of local military management. And Lieutenant Colonel Kazak thinks the main thing in this case is attention to people and their needs and concerns.

Communist Kazak himself does not tolerate indifference in working with people and he **is equally demanding of his** subordinates. Those employees of the military commissariat who observed mental callousness and red tape felt very uncomfortable. Problems which disturbed the military commissariat are submitted for discussion at party meetings and official conferences. And the collective always resolves them jointly and successfully. Subordinates such as Majors L. Gal'chuk, V. Pilipenko, I. Zelenyy and others are good support to the military commissar. Now, when the work was shown by fulfilling the decisions of the June 1983 Plenum of the CPSU Central Committee, the work of the Kanev military commissariat is distinguished by high activity. The military commissariat devotes great attention to improving the military-patriotic education of youth.

The authority of a military commissar. It means a great deal in the productive activities of the military commissariat. And success comes only when the officer in charge of the military commissariat lives state interests and possesses high responsibility for the state of affairs, an actively vital position, and the restive nature of a propagandist. Communist Kazak is precisely a person of that kind. The sources of his high authority are to be found in this.

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## ARMED FORCES

### MILITARY CONSTRUCTORS' PERFORMANCE ASSESSED

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 13 Aug 83 p 2

[Article by unknown author: "Work Efficiently and Qualitatively and Use Production Reserves to the Maximum Extent"]

[Text] In the USSR Ministry of Defense and the Main Political Directorate of the Soviet Army and Navy jointly with the central committee of **the trade union of workers in** construction and the construction materials industry, the progress of meeting commitments was examined and results were tallied for the all-military socialist competition of military constructors during the first six months of 1983.

In the military-construction units and organizations, work is spreading more widely for implementing decisions of the November 1982 and June 1983 plenums of the party's central committee and the instructions of General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and Chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Comrade Yu. V. Andropov, and measures are being actively implemented for increasing party and ideological people, strengthening state and military discipline, and increasing the role of labor collectives.

The high political frame of mind and labor upsurge of personnel occasioned by preparing for the 80th anniversary of the 2nd Congress of the RSDRP [Russian Social Democratic Workers' Party] and the 25th anniversary of the movement of shock workers and collectives of communist labor, and the important organizational work of leading command-political and engineering-technical cadres, political organs, and party, trade union and Komsomol organizations ensured the execution of military construction by collectives during the intense and complex six-month production program as well as socialist obligations in accordance with all basic indices.

Industrial enterprises and planning-research organizations accomplished the established tasks.

The pioneers of the all-military socialist competition of military constructors--constructors from the Odessa Military District--concluded the six months with the highest production results. Construction leaders and party, trade union and

Komsomol organizations here are concentrating their primary efforts towards increasing self-discipline, the training of people's political consciousness, and a proprietary regard for socialist property. The responsibility of officers and engineering-technical staff has been enhanced for observing planning discipline and for incorporating leading and progressive labor methods.

Making a good showing were constructors from the Moscow, Belorussian and Central Asian Military Districts, the Northern Fleet, organizations led by Comrades V. Bezmenov, M. Gromenko, V. Dukhin, A. Navasardov, A. Popov, Yu. Rossomakhov, A. Semenov, L. Smirnov, V. Sukhov, S. Surovtsev, L. Khizhnyak and collectives of enterprises where Comrades V. Vakhrushev, L. Gol'tsman, A. Nafanov, L. Nekrasov, S. Zakitnyy, B. Flerov and M. Chernyy serve as managers.

In turn, the brigade form of organization and labor stimulation is being incorporated and is improving at military construction sites, and planning-economic and political-education work is improving in subordinate links of the construction industry.

According to work results for the first six months of 1983, the following became winners in socialist competition:

- constructors from the Odessa Military District in competition with constructors from the North Caucasus Military District;
- constructors from the Moscow Military District in competition with constructors from the Leningrad Military District;
- constructors from the Belorussian Military District in competition with constructors from the Baltic Military District;
- constructors from the Central Asian Military District in competition with constructors from the Turkestan Military District; and
- constructors from the Northern Fleet in competition with constructors from the Pacific Ocean Fleet.

In addition, collectives of construction organizations from the Leningrad, Kiev, Carpathian, North Caucasus and Volga Military Districts, the Moscow PVO [Air Defense] District, the Pacific Ocean and Black Sea Fleets and several centrally subordinated organizations did not accomplish the established tasks **and socialist obligations according to individual showing. Military constructors from the Ural, Baltic, Transcaucasus, Turkestan, Transbaykal, and Siberian Military Districts and the Baltic Fleet and the collectives of organizations, where Comrades V. Krivenko, V. Moysyuk and M. Shevchenko serve as managers, were unable to use all their resources and production reserves.**

Analysis of the production activity of these collectives showed that the primary causes of their lagging behind are shortcomings in organizing operations at construction sites and in local planning and construction management styles and methods on the part of engineering and technical staffs, the dissipation of energy and resources at numerous sites, inefficient use of equipment and material resources, indeterminate assistance on site to construction organs and units which are lagging behind, as well as neglect of political-education work among personnel.

Complex and responsible tasks are being resolved in the current year of the 11th Five-Year Plan. One of the decisive conditions for their successful implementation is strengthening labor discipline and reducing the use of manual labor in every way possible.

It is necessary for managers of enterprises and construction sites to strive for increasing the level of construction organization and work quality, ensuring efficient use of everything that the construction site has available, incorporating scientific-technical achievements and leading experience on a broad scale, and improving the operation of supply and transportation organization. The more daring move on to establishing large, comprehensive self-financing brigades and incorporating a start-to-finish, production line brigade contract. The brigade contract should become the basic form of labor organization.

Construction site managers, political organs and party organizations are urged to intensify organizational and political work in light of requirements of the CPSU Central Committee Plenum in June, to increase the responsibility of cadres for executive discipline, not to relax attention to the way of life of personnel in military construction units and organization, and to direct the socialist competition and enthusiasm of military constructors towards complete fulfillment and overfulfillment of the annual production program and socialist obligations.

The USSR Ministry of Defense, the Main Political Directorate of the Soviet Army and Navy, and the central committee of the workers' trade union for construction and the construction materials industry express confidence in the fact that personnel of military construction units and workers of organizations and enterprises are celebrating 1983 with new successes in fulfilling the historical decisions of the 26th CPSU Congress, and they are making a heavy contribution to further strengthening the defensive might of our Soviet motherland.

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## ARMED FORCES

### SERGEANTS' VITAL ROLE IN TRAINING NOTED

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 13 Aug 83 p 2

[Article by Lieutenant Colonel M. Popov of the Red Banner Siberian Military District: "Training and Educating"]

[Text] Not so long ago while sorting out the mail, the deputy regimental commander for the political unit and I read one letter with particular satisfaction. Written in it was the following: "Among the sergeants who graduated from training units during the past year, Sergeant V. Andreyev, a graduate of your regiment, proved himself as one of the most well-trained young commanders. He knows the equipment well and is an expert rifleman. And what is particularly important, he is skillfully devising educational work with subordinates."

Andreyev. I immediately recalled this shortish cadet and vividly imagined the situation in which I became acquainted with him.

The company in which Andreyev served had completed a dash march. Having stretched the column out for nearly a half kilometer, I caught up in my BMP [infantry combat vehicle] somewhere halfway to the objective. It looked like some of the cadets were already tired. The last man could hardly drag his legs along the training area road which was broken up by caterpillar tractors. It was Andreyev. Sergeant S. Kuryachev, the squad commander, was carrying his automatic weapon. Then, I recall, having outrun these soldiers, I stopped and said:

"Kuryachev, give the cadet his automatic weapon. Let him sit in the vehicle."

"Comrade lieutenant colonel, but he...We'll get there. We'll do it ourselves. Andreyev?"

The sergeant glanced questioningly at the cadet. He wanted Andreyev to confirm this confidence of his. But he hesitated. He glanced at the open doors of the BMP and at the sergeant. Remaining silent, he then took his automatic weapon and began to march off behind the company.

That evening I again arrived at the unit to see if everything was in order. While passing by the tents, I heard Kuryachev's somewhat husky voice:

"Well done, Andreyev. He didn't let me down. He was offered a ride in the BMP, but he refused."

I didn't stop to drop in at the tent. I thought: everything will always be in order in a company where there are such sensible sergeants as Kuryachev.

Reflecting on this case, you are convinced again and again of what an important role sergeants play in the training and education of cadets in training units.

Reading the testimonial which we spoke about above, I automatically recalled other junior regimental commanders. Those, who like Kuryachev, along with the officers patiently train and educate subordinates. Many of them are diligent and capable people who serve as a good example for cadets. And as is known, an example is an important matter. An example teaches and educates. An example leads.

Take, let's say, Sergeant N. Vasil'yev. He will never permit himself to carry out one or another directive haphazardly no matter how difficult it turned out to be, and he will not raise his voice towards a subordinate. But he also will not permit him to deviate from the requirements of regulations. If one may say so, all of this is corroborated by a good knowledge of equipment and weapons and high military skill.

And yet one more quality of Sergeant Vasil'yev is his considerate and sensitive attitude towards people and towards his subordinates, and the ability in any situation to maintain his composure and tact and with a kind word and personal example to motivate soldiers towards model service performance and excellent training.

**I remember one winter during a field exercise towards the end of the second day of a continuous march and training battles we stopped for an overnight bivouac. It was at least 20 degrees below zero. And then a snowstorm** came up and during the night it tore down two tents. The angry cadets began to quarrel. Those who had not set up the tents began to blame those who had set them up for carelessness. And defending themselves, the latter were banished to the frozen ground on poor stakes. But meanwhile the matter didn't budge. And then Sergeant Vasil'yev, who was resting with his squad in the third, adjacent tent, intervened:

"Let's help our comrades," he shouted, and he was the first to exit into the freezing weather. All the cadets in the squad followed him. The sergeant's self-control and the cool, clear instructions had done their part. Within several minutes the tents stood solidly fastened and the people kindled a fire in the small stoves and lay down to sleep.

It's fair to say that one's service and entire life in a training unit should be a model. And, of course, sergeants should be a model and a standard by which they will compare their activities in the military forces. Therefore it

is quite clear that we select people with great care for the positions of squad commanders and deputy platoon commanders. Making a thorough and comprehensive study of their professional and pedagogical qualities, we select them first and foremost from among our graduates. In addition, we do not forget that selection of the most suitable nominations is only part of the matter. It is much more important to set up efficient training of sergeants and continuous improvement of their knowledge and skills for educational work. A comprehensive plan for training-methodological and educational work with sergeants was developed for these purposes in the regiment, and meetings and assemblies for junior commanders are being conducted at which the most diverse issues are being submitted, commencing with execution of the order of the day and concluding with the critique of a practical problem for the sergeants on training and educating future junior commanders.

Training and educating a cadet in a training unit is a complex and many-sided process. In the course of it, future sergeants work a great deal by stages, so to speak--they listen, observe, and learn. And as studies conducted in our regiment have shown, they have insufficient practical activities and they do not always acquire the necessary sum of skills for training and educating future subordinates. Testimonials from the forces are also indicative of this.

Taking this into account, recently we considerably reorganized the training-educational process and are striving as much as possible to provide future junior commanders with practical skills. For example, for the first month of training cadets are engaged in performing the duties of the company day orderly, assistant duty officer for the KPP [regimental command post] and company duty officer; and they act as the senior person for performing housekeeping operations.

During the second month, the cadets are preparing for apprenticeship: they serve as squad commanders for a period of 10 days, are appointed as instructors for classes at training "objectives," they lead discussions and conduct political information activities with the soldiers, and so forth.

During the third month, they begin to go through their apprenticeship which includes performing the entire complement of duties of a squad commander and persons of the daily duty detail appointed from a number of sergeants. During the entire training period, we try to equip cadets with the necessary knowledge of forms and methods for educating future subordinates, and for that we use systematic developments prepared by our better officers, and we conduct lectures, discussions and practical studies. We entrust cadets with conducting political-educational arrangements and summing up competition.

I already spoke about how carefully we select sergeants. But we also choose cadets no less scrupulously. We take into consideration their overall educational level, desire to learn, work experience in an industry or on a kolkhoz and sovkhoz with people who are a part of Komsomol organs, general erudition and many other things. Nevertheless, if in the process of training we see that



things aren't working out for a person, we transfer him from the training unit. Of course, a measure of that kind is extremely undesirable. But it's still better to rectify a mistake in time in order not to bear the costs later on from the work of a bad sergeant in the military forces.

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## ARMED FORCES

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

#### Summary of August Mailbag

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 2 Sep 83 p 2

[Text] The editors received 8,179 letters from readers in August. A total of 479 were published. The newspaper received 644 responses to its articles.

The letters for last month mainly had to do with the June 1983 Plenum of the CPSU Central Committee. The readers reported on the work being performed by the commanders, political workers, party, Komsomol and trade union organizations of the army and navy on the study and the practical implementation of plenum decisions.

Warrant Officer S. Turumkozhayev, for example, writes from the Central Asian Military District that the political indoctrination of the fightingmen has become more effective in the military construction detachment in which he serves. This has had a marked effect with respect to the further strengthening of military and labor discipline and the improvement of labor productivity. Senior Lieutenant L. Chervinko, political worker, wrote from the Group of Soviet Forces in Germany to tell about his unit's experience in implementing decisions coming out of the June Plenum of the CPSU Central Committee.

In their letters the military readers stress the fact that the improvement of the ideological, political and indoctrinational work performed with the personnel is having a beneficial effect with respect to enhancing the combat readiness of the units, ships and subunits, the fitting completion of the training year and the complete fulfillment of socialist commitments. They report on tangible successes achieved by their colleagues during the summer training period and their demonstration of initiative and persistence in the achievement of the goals they have set. Such letters were written by Guards Lieutenant V. Pryadkin from the Baltic Military District, Guards Captain O. Kalininchikov from the Group of Soviet Forces in Germany, Major Ye. Moskal' from the Central Group of Forces, and others.

"The ocean cruise by the submarine on which Senior Lieutenant V. Varlamov serves was long and difficult," states a letter from Captain 3rd Rank M. Popov of the Baltic Fleet. "All of the tasks were accomplished and received excellent evaluations. The number of masters of military affairs and specialists first-class

on the ship increased, and the new sailors have learned to perform at the level of specialist 2nd-class." "The fightingmen in our radiotechnical unit," writes Captain V. Nemirskiy from the Moscow Air Defense District, "earned an excellent evaluation in a tactical exercise involving field firing."

All the Soviet people are vitally interested in seeing the Armed Forces of the USSR at a high level of combat readiness. This fact is borne out by numerous letters from workers disturbed about the militaristic preparations by aggressive circles of the USA and NATO. Kolkhoz and other workers, white-collar workers and veterans of the Great Patriotic War call upon the homeland's armed defenders to tirelessly perfect their combat skills, vigilantly guard the peace and reliably assure the homeland's security. Numerous written appeals come from the parents of Soviet fightingmen and those close to them. This is what Galina Stepanovna Feduk writes from Ivano-Frankovsk Oblast: "I am very pleased with the letters I receive from my son Stepan. He serves in the Group of Soviet Forces in Germany. He makes me happy when he says: 'Don't worry about us, mama. Work without fear. We have everything necessary to defend the homeland'."

Letters written in response to the meeting with party veterans in the CPSU Central Committee revealed a vital link between the generations. Major (Reserve) N. Slyusarenko of Cherkassy and others write that this meeting gave them confidence and inspiration and set them upon a path of even more active participation in the military-patriotic work. The veterans of the USSR Armed Forces are fervently supporting the party's appeal to be the daily mentors of the youth. Colonel (Reserve) P. Tarasov, among others, wrote: "Our young draftees are remarkable young people, devoted to the homeland, competent and physically strong. We veterans of the army and navy will spare no effort to see that they are even better prepared for military service."

The August mailbag demonstrated the readers' growing intolerance of any kind of shortcomings in the training or the service. The letters described failings and omissions in the ideological-indoctrinational work and the organization of the training process.

Some write to the editors about individual cases of red tape and bureaucracy. L. Kutareva, wife of a military construction worker in his first term of service, rightly criticized a reply she received from the military commissariat of the Georgian SSR. The reply asserted that aid to children is not paid to the families of construction workers in their first term of service. This is clearly not in conformity with the current regulations. The reply attests to the unwillingness of certain officials to carefully look into a specific matter, to provide the people with prompt and effective assistance in the resolution of their problems.

#### Handling of Servicemen's Misconduct Criticized

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 28 Aug 83 p 2

[Letter from reader and reply: "The Military Uniform Carries an Obligation"]

[Text] Twice a year--in the fall and in the spring--we see an especially large number of young people in the military uniform on our nation's main transportation

lines. These are people who have honorably fulfilled their duty to the homeland and are returning to their permanent place of residence. And what strong, sharp fellows they all are! Sometimes we see individuals out of uniform, however, some even in a state of intoxication. This sort of conduct must clearly be stamped out.

We must clearly put a stop to it, but this is the sort of thing we come up against. A soldier released into the reserves was arrested at a station in an inebriated state, so to speak. He was taken to the commandant's office, then to the guardroom. The garrison judge advocate learned about the incident, however, and ordered that the arrested man be released. He explained that the agencies of military control have no jurisdiction over servicemen released into the reserves.

So they sent the arrested man to the transport police division. They have their own procurator, and he explained that a serviceman is not considered to be in the reserves until he has registered at the military commissariat where he lives.

And so the circle was closed. We cannot permit any gaps in the effect of our laws, however.--Major V. Rogozinskiy

The editors showed the letter from Major V. Rogozinskiy, chief of the department for law enforcement in transportation under the USSR Procurator, to state Legal Counselor 2nd Class L. Baranov and Colonel of Justice P. Goroshko, assistant chief judge advocate. Following are their opinions on this matter:

Yes, there can be no gaps in a citizen's legal status, including a citizen being drafted for active military duty or discharged into the reserves. Precisely for the purpose of specifying the jurisdictional limitations of military control and other agencies, our law specifically defines the points at which an individual begins and completes his active military duty.

It begins the moment the draftee reports to the military commissariat to be assigned to a military unit. Soldiers, sailors, sergeants and petty officers complete their active military duty the moment they receive the papers discharging them into the reserves from the military unit.

From that moment personnel discharged from active military duty into the reserves are civilians and they can in fact not be placed in a guardroom.

And now, a word about the obligations entailed by the right of servicemen to wear the uniform until they are registered in the military commissariat. According to the spirit and the letter of our laws and military regulations, everyone granted this honor must observe the regulations for wearing the uniform and naturally, they must conduct themselves in a proper manner. The wearing of the uniform of a Soviet serviceman also entails certain actions on the part of the officials. A commandant's patrol, let us say, has the right to point out sloppy appearance or unbecoming conduct to a serviceman discharged into the reserves, and if necessary, to arrest him and turn him over to police agencies for appropriate action.

## Wife's Dissatisfaction With Service Life Criticized

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 28 Aug 83 p 2

[Letter from WO (Retired) N. Balashov, Kiev Oblast: "The Wrong Choice"]

[Text] I read Captain A. Sasa's article "Discord" in KRASNAYA ZVEZDA. It told how Warrant Officer A. Nekorystnov decided to give up the service, because his wife Valentina did not like where he was serving. I read it and disagreed in my heart. That is always the way I feel when I read that people are leaving the service for the reasons for which A. Nekorystnov gave it up. How can this happen? The man dreamed of being a military man--both in school and at the institute--and finally became one. His service went well and he got along well in the collective. And then he gave up all of this at his wife's insistence. She did not pass the test of the trifles of life and the temporary unsettledness. Nor did Nekorystnov himself have adequate firmness and wisdom about life.

Another matter bothers me: Were there no people around them who could have given the young people some friendly assistance? Was there no one to convince them that they are needed there in the Transbaikals? Is that right?.. Can we select a location all our lives, which suits only us, without considering our duty to society?

This incident brought a note of sorrow to my heart also because I myself served 35 years in the army. I changed garrisons more than once due to service needs. And my wife Yekaterina was by my side all those years. Just where didn't we live!? I never heard a single complaint, a single word of reproach, from my wife, however.

My last garrison was in the Far East. We loved that area. We left when I was discharged from the Armed Forces for reasons of age. There would seem to be no reason for me to reproach myself, but now and then I feel a pang of pain in my heart: Why did I leave the area where I had spent the best years of my life?

Will Aleksandr Nekorystnov not feel the same sort of pain? After all, the best years of his life were only beginning. I believe that he will....

## Personal References Sometimes Misleading

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 28 Aug 83 p 2

[Article: "Are the References Always Objective?"]

[Text] "Junior Sergeant A. Tarasov, commander of a tank crew in our battalion, was recently demoted by order of the senior chief. The reason for his demotion was a gross violation of regulations, but the main thing was that he lacked professional knowledge and skills.

"The service reference given for A. Tarasov when he left the training subunit, however, states the following: 'He can direct a crew in various situations.... He knows the regulations and follows them in his daily life....' The reference

was signed by Guards Captain P. Samsonov, commander of the training tank platoon. He also affixed his signature to a reference for Junior Sergeant P. Dzelayev, another graduate of the training subunit, with whom we had to do a lot of work, just as we did with Tarasov.

"The graduates of the training subunit attribute the gaps in their preparation to the fact that they were taken away from the scheduled training to perform various jobs. Be that as it may, we still have to be surprised at the ease with which officials sign references for some graduates of the training subunits, which are, to be frank, not objective." (From a discussion conducted by KRASNAYA ZVEZDA correspondent Lieutenant Colonel V. Zhitarenko with Lieutenant Colonel Ye. Ivanov, commander of a tank battalion.)

At the editor's request this matter was discussed by Guards Captain P. Samsonov, commander of the training tank platoon, and Colonel P. Kiselev, senior officer in the Directorate for Combat Training and VUZ's of the Order of Lenin Moscow Military District.

Guards Captain P. Samsonov:

I recall A. Tarasov well. I remember that he had a hard time fitting into the work rhythm of the training subunit. He fell behind his comrades in many areas, and try as I might to eliminate the lag with individual classes, I was unable to do a great deal. Incidentally, I wrote in the reference: "Worthy of being appointed to the position of tank commander after additional preparation."

Now, about taking the students away from the training. Yes, we are engaged in improving and repairing the training base. Who is going to do this for us? Our military post has changed to an unrecognizable degree during the past 2 or 3 years.... Of course the students helped the military construction workers. Most of their time was spent in training, however. How effective this was is another matter.

One of the circumstances negatively affecting the quality of our work is poor training on the part of many draftees sent to the training subunits by the military commissariats. Student K. Babazhonov, for example, is now training in the platoon which I command. He is behind in literally every area. And although I give him special attention, it would be difficult to guarantee that he will not share the fate of Tarasov.

One asks why we would graduate an unprepared junior commander. Sometimes, upon completing the training in our platoon, even the most poorly qualified students receive the rank of junior sergeant.

Colonel P. Kiselev:

The issue brought up by Lieutenant Colonel Ye. Ivanov is extremely urgent. The fact is that the role performed by the sergeants in the training and indoctrinational process is constantly growing. Qualitatively, however, their preparation in the training subunits does not always measure up to the heightened demands.

I could name various causes. They include the matter referred to by the platoon commander--the students' participation in the improvement of the training base. This participation, however, without which it would be difficult to get along, should be intelligently regulated, so that the time spent by the students on other jobs is made up with additional classes and independent studies. This is still not being done in all places.

We also need to think about enhancing the methodological level of the training of subunit commanders. A great deal is presently being done in this area.

In conclusion, I would say the following to Lieutenant Colonel Ye. Ivanov: "A training subunit graduate, no matter what kind of evaluations and references he brings with him to the unit, should receive special attention. They forget this in some units, assuming that they have received a thoroughly prepared specialist, a fully developed commander. Was this not the attitude taken toward Junior Sergeant A. Tarasov? Had the battalion commander given him more attention, he would no doubt have been able to place the junior sergeant into the ranks of the skilled specialists, his reliable assistants.

I feel that the practice of conferring the rank of sergeant upon students who do not deserve it, the practice mentioned by Guards Captain Samsonov, needs to be given some special attention by the appropriate commanders and political organs.

#### Poor Firing Performance

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 31 Aug 83 p 2

[Letter from reader and commentary: "What the Firing Exercise Showed--Fact and Commentary"]

[Text] The tank company commanded by Captain V. Suprunov attacked the strong point. The "enemy" attempted to halt the attackers with fire from the weapons not suppressed during the artillery preparation. He succeeded. Partly because only a few of all the attacking tanks fired effectively. As a result only a small percentage of the targets were destroyed, especially the guns.

This incident took place recently in one of the company tactical exercises. Captain Suprunov attributed the failure to inadequate training on the part of some gunners. Major V. Tkachev, battalion commander, attributed it to poor visibility during the firing exercise. Major I. Bredikhin, a regimental staff officer, summed it up briefly:

"Those things happen. Things do not always turn out the way we would like...."

And just why didn't they turn out the way we would have liked?

The limited visibility was an impediment, of course. I would name the fact that the tank weapons were not prepared for the exercise as the prime cause of the poor firing results, however. The calibration of the sights and the zeroing in of the weapons were performed hastily. Before beginning it, the battalion commander should have thoroughly gone over the necessary guides, manuals and

instructions, primarily with the officers at the platoon level and with the tank commanders. Major Tkachev did not look into one of these documents, however, and did not require that his subordinates know them. Furthermore, he did not involve the tank commanders in the preparation of the weapons, feeling that the work would be done more reliably and rapidly that way. And so, the men who would be directly involved in the firing did not "feel out" their weapons. This had to affect the firing results. -- Lieutenant Colonel Yu. Lyubchin

At the editor's request Major General K. Shestakov, chief of the Combat Training Department of the Southern Group of Forces, comments on the letter from our reader:

There is obviously no need to explain that the outcome of a battle depends greatly upon the condition of the weapons, upon how well they have been calibrated and ranged. After all, an individual with a solid knowledge of the theory of fire preparation, with solid practical skills, a bold and resolute person, cannot count on accurate, destructive fire, is he is handling a weapon which has not been zeroed in.

The process of readying the weapons is a fairly complex one. It requires a knowledge of the laws of ballistics, tactical skills and proper material support. Upon encountering their first difficulties, however, some young officers willingly "relinquish" their duties to more experienced comrades. It is easier that way. And then we have attempts by some officers to do everything themselves. As though they will do it more dependably. What sort of dependability can we expect from the subunit as a whole, however, if most of those firing have not learned that the weapon strikes where it is aimed? It is precisely in consideration of this psychological factor that the fire preparation methods require that the commanders of the firing subunits involve the tank commanders in the calibration of the sights and zeroing in of the weapons. The results are greater where these methods are undeviatingly followed.

Permit me to cite the experience of our outstanding units.

When assemblies for the platoon, company and battalion commanders are planned in these units, as an example, special time is allocated for demonstration classes on the calibration of sights and the zeroing in of the small arms and tank weapons. Material support is arranged with special thoroughness. The best officers-and-methods experts demonstrate the procedures and actions in strict sequence, and the commanders of the tanks and infantry combat vehicles are always involved.

All of this makes it possible to actively influence the training process, particularly the quality of the preparation of the weapons.

#### Practice in Destroying Ground Targets

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 31 Aug 83 p 2

[Article by Lt Col V. Seledkin: "To Instil Confidence--a Reader Has Told Us the Location of Some Progressive Experience"]



[Text] The airmen in our unit committed themselves to master one of the types of combat employment rapidly and well. It can now be said that my colleagues have achieved great successes in the training. They achieved good results in a recent tactical flight exercise. I feel that socialist competition helped us a great deal. (From a letter to the editors from Senior Lieutenant of Technical Service M. Lisovskiy, Group of Soviet Forces in Germany.)

In the air regiment which I visited, in order to be able to tell the readers about the airmen's progressive experience, I talked with Captain O. Vavilin, one of the best pilots in the unit.

"Until recently we worked mainly on procedures and methods for conducting aerial battles," he said. "Therefore, when the new pilots began working on procedures for destroying ground targets, it was as though they had to start all over in some respects."

Both Captain and many other airmen commented that they had had to achieve a certain mental reorientation for mastering the given type of combat employment. It is one thing, after all, when you engage in aerial combat at accustomed altitudes and distances and you constantly orient yourself toward the perfecting of your piloting skills. It is another matter, when you have to be able to operate at low altitudes in a precise and thoroughly conceived manner.

The regimental commander and party activists understood very well that most vigorous, diversified work was required to enhance the airmen's confidence that they would successfully accomplish the assigned mission, to instil resolve and boldness in their hearts, so to speak.

The men in the air squadron commanded by Lieutenant Colonel A. Tyurikov were among the first to begin this work. From the very first, they effectively employed one of the basic principles underlying the competition--the possibility of repeating the progressive experience. Arrangements were made for the airmen to meet with the pilots of other units who had already performed this exercise. I especially recall a talk with Lieutenant Colonel V. Voyevodin, military sniper-pilot. In the group's air forces he is known as one of the best trained air fighters, capable of successfully performing the most difficult missions. Lieutenant Colonel Voyevodin vividly and intelligibly explained the special aspects of flying the winged machine at low altitudes.

Following the substantive talks, the airmen set about the work with even greater enthusiasm and vigor. They were competing in the acquisition of solid theoretical knowledge and the demonstration of initiative. A great deal of inventiveness was employed, as an example, to make the training process more graphic and more easily remembered. Specialists led by Lieutenant Colonel T. Kryuyunerkh, a veteran pilot, worked out and prepared a chart for the distribution of attention on the bombing run. It consisted of a graphic depiction of the flight, indicating the points for the execution of the turn, the beginning of the dive, the sighting, the opening of fire and the pullout.

Classes in the classrooms were interesting and were conducted in a climate of rivalry. This is why Lieutenant Colonel L. Aleksandrov, Majors V. Zarypov, V. Kitsenko and M. Galkin, and others rapidly achieved significant results after beginning the intensive flights. People promptly learned about the successes achieved by the outstanding airmen from information posted on a special board. This also inspired the men, of course, and gave them confidence in their capabilities.

Judging from everything, the airmen were able to achieve the proper orientation toward success in the course of the combat training and the socialist competition. I visited the range and saw how confidently Lieutenant Colonel A. Tyurikov's men bombed the ground targets. The fighter-bombers cut through the starless sky, one after another. And the bombs flew accurately to the targets.

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ARMED FORCES

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## AIR/AIR DEFENSE FORCES

MORE ATTENTION SHOULD BE GIVEN TO AIR TACTICS

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 17 Aug 83 p 1

[Article: "The Tactical Training of the Aerial Fighter"]

[Text] The heat of the exercises increased. Committing his reserves, the defender offered stubborn resistance and called for additional air forces to support the counterattack. The commander of the air regiment supporting the attacker's operations, Guards Lieutenant Colonel A. Chuyev, receiving information from the air scouts, decided to forestall this strike. Making an estimate of the situation which had developed, he created the numerical superiority of his fighters on the most dangerous directions. The "enemy," unexpectedly attacked by first-class pilots under the command of Guards Major V. Vladarchuk, was forced to conduct the air battle under conditions disadvantageous for him and was unable to accomplish completely the assigned mission.

Intense summer training provides many such examples. In contemporary battle, the victor is the one who is able to determine the situation quickly, make a bold, well-thought-out decision in time, and implement it persistently. And this is possible only with developed tactical thinking and deep knowledge of the combat capabilities of one's own forces and weapons and the procedures and methods of operation of the probable enemy.

Tactics are rightly called the pilot's reliable weapon. They are among the main components of victory in battle against a strong, technically well equipped enemy. In contemporary aerial battle which is distinguished by fluidity and high power, the pilot is required to have high piloting skills, deep knowledge of his equipment's combat capabilities and the enemy's weak and strong aspects, the effective use of all the power of on-board weapons, and proficiency in employing tactical procedures.

However, proper attention is still not devoted to questions of tactics in all air units when organizing the combat training of the aviators. Some commanders presume that it is sufficient for the pilot to fly the combat aircraft well and to learn to fire accurately and conduct bombing and rocket launches with high quality under range conditions, and the ability to operate in a tactically competent manner, with initiative, and boldly, will come to him automatically. An erroneous notion! The overwhelming majority of the commanders of air units and subunits organize the daily training of the aerial fighters according to the